

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 NEA-10 EB-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07

/096 W

-----010909Z 019099 /10

R 311744Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 508

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKHAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION NATO

USEC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MADRID 4208

E.O.11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, SP, IT

SUBJECT: VISIT TO SPAIN OF ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: MADRID 3966 (NOTAL)

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1. ACCORDING TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR FOR SOUTHERN EUROPE (ALVARO DE CASTILLA), THE VISIT TO SPAIN OF ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FORLANI SHOULD BE SEEN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE EXTENDED PERIOD OF COLD RELATIONS DATING FROM THE IMMEDIATE POST-WAR ERA, A PERIOD SET OFF BY THE NEED OF ITALIANS, REGARDLESS OF THEIR POLITICAL

ORIENTATION, TO PROVE THEIR DISLIKE OF FASCISM OR ANYTHING RELATED. THE FREEZE CONTINUED AFTER THE DEATH OF FRANCO, CASTILLA SAID, BECAUSE OF THE STRONG POSITION OF THE PCI IN ITALY AND THE CONTINUING ILLEGALITY OF THE PCE IN SPAIN.

2. ONCE THE PCE BECAME LEGAL. CASTILLA CONTINUED, THE ITALIANS UNLEASHED A VIRTUAL "AVALANCE" OF MINISTERIAL VISITORS, BEGINNING WITH CULTURAL AFFAIRS, FOLLOWED BY FOREIGN TRADE BUT NOT ENDING EVEN WITH FOREIGN MINISTER. OTHERS WERE TO FOLLOW, FORLANI'S VISIT AND IN FACT BEEN MOVED UP BECAUSE OF POLITICAL INTEREST, AND BEFORE THE YEAR WAS OUT (BUT OF COURSE AFTER THE SPANISH ELECTIONS IN JUNE), IT WAS ALREADY AGREED, EITHER ANDREOTTI WOULD VISIT SPAIN OR SUAREZ WOULD GO TO ITALY.

3. THE FLOOD OF VISITORS WAS IN FACT A REASONABLE EFFORT TO MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME. CASTILLA CONTENDED: ITALY WAS CONCERNED THAT FRANCE AND GERMANY HAD GOTTEN OUT IN FRONT IN IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH SPAIN, AND ON THE ITALIAN SIDE POLITICS HAD LAGGED BADLY BEHIND ECONOMICS, WITH ITALY HAVING LONG SINCE DEVELOPED SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN SPAIN AND ITALIAN INDUSTRIALISTS HAVING LONG PRESSED THEIR RELUCTANT POLITICAL LEADERS TO ESTABLISH BETTER BILATERAL RELATIONS.

4. CASTILLA REPORTED AS FOLLOWS ON TOPICS DISCUSSED AT THE LENGTHY WORKING SESSION:

5. SPAIN AND THE EC, ITALY, FAR FROM OPPOSING SPAIN'S ADHESION BECAUSE OF ALLEGED FEAR OF AGRICULTURAL

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COMPETITION, ACTUALLY WELCOMED SPANISH ENTRY AS HELPFUL TO ITALY'S STRUGGLE FOR A BETTER SHAKE FOR ITS (SOUTHERN) AGRICULTURE VIS-A-VIS ITS NORTHERN PARTNERS. THE TWO COUNTRIES DIFFERED, HOWEVER, ON THE BEST APPROACH WITH THE GOS ARGUING THAT ITS ENTRY SHOULD COME FIRST SO IT COULD HELP IN THE FIGHT, WHILE THE ITALIANS, SAID SPANISH ENTRY COULD TAKE YEARS AND THEY WERE UNWILLING TO PUT OFF THE FIGHT FOR SO LONG.

6. SPAIN AND NATO. THE SPANIARDS POINTED OUT THAT FOR THEM THE NATO QUESTION WAS EXTREMELY COMPLICATED, AND ITS RESOLUTION WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT FULL POLITICAL DEBATE AND ACTION BY THE FREELY ELECTED PARLIAMENT. THE SPANISH ALSO MADE A POINT OF SAYING THAT ACCORDING TO THE NATO CHARTER, MEMBERSHIP CAME BY INVITATION AND NOT THROUGH A REQUEST FROM A WOULD-BE MEMBER.

7. MIDDLE EAST. THE ITALIANS WELCOMED WHAT THEY CALLED NEW U.S. FLEXIBILITY, ACCORDING TO CASTILLA, THOUGH THEY

ALSO PRAISED FORMER SECRETARY KISSINGER'S ACHIEVEMENT REGARDING EGYPT. THEY LAUDED PRESIDENT CARTER'S FRESH APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM, SAID ISRAEL WOULD HAVE TO MAKE SOME CONCESSIONS IF AGREEMENT WERE TO BE REACHED, AND SAID THE U.S. WAS THE ONLY PARTY IN A POSITION TO BRING ABOUT SUCH CONCESSIONS.

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8. CSCE, THE ITALIANS DID NOT THINK THE BELGRADE MEETING SHOULD HARP TOO MUCH ON EASTERN FAILURES TO LIVE UP TO THE HELSINKI HUMAN RIGHTS ACCORDS, SAIDCASTILLA. THE ITALIANS SAID CSCE SHOULD REVIEWPERFORMANCE ACROSS THE

BOARD BY BOTH SIDES, ACCENTUATING THE POSITIVE IN ORDER
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NOT TO JEOPARDIZE POSSIBILITIES FOR FURTHER AGREEMENTS
BUT BY NO MEANS GIVING INTO EASTERN DEMANDS THAT HUMAN
RIGHTS ISSUES BE OVERLOOKED.

9. MALTA. THE ITALIAN DESCRIBED THE STATE OF PLAY OF
THEIR (AND THE FRENCH) TALKS WITH MINTOFF, NOTING THEY
AND THE FRENCH HAD TURNED DOWN HIS IDEA OF A NEUTRALITY
TREATY BECAUSE THEY PREFERRED UNLATERAL DECLARATIONS.
THE ITALIANS, CASTILLA SAID, HAD ALSO CAUTIONED MINTOFF
ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OF TRUE NEUTRALITY AS DISTINCT FROM
A KIND OF "NEUTRALISM" WITHIN WHICH HE WOULD STILL BE
FREE TO PLAY POLITICAL GAMES. STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, HUMAN RIGHTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MADRID04208
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770194-0766
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977053/aaaaacbz.tel
Line Count: 189
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 11cd428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MADRID 3966
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2414082
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT TO SPAIN OF ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER
TAGS: PFOR, SP, IT, CSCE, (FORLANI, ARNALDO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/11cd428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009